



CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Library and Information Science FAQ 2025
<https://www.csu.edu/cimst/infostudies/index.htm>

Q1. Are the MSLIS program and PK12 LIS endorsement available fully online?

A1. Yes! Both are available fully online. Courses are delivered asynchronously. Optional synchronous sessions are typically recorded for those unable to attend. Readings, activities, and assignment due dates are distributed across each semester.

Q2. How long has CSU offered education for LIS?

A2. The library studies program was established in 1947.

Q3. Is the CSU MSLIS accredited?

A3. Yes, the program is accredited by the American Library Association (ALA). CSU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Q4. What MSLIS specializations are available?

A4. Specializations are available for academic, public, and school libraries as well as archives and records management. It is also possible to explore content across two or more specializations through electives. An academic advisor supports students with course selection.

Q5. How long does it take to complete the MSLIS?

A5. MSLIS program requirements may be completed in one calendar year. Most students pursue studies part-time over two years. The time limit to complete degree requirements is six years.

Q6. When can I begin studies?

A6. Admissions is available every term (fall, spring, & summer). Deadlines for applications are July 15 (fall); Dec 17 (spring); and May 15 (summer).

Q7. What majors and GPA are accepted?

A7. We accept students from all undergraduate majors as well as those who have also pursued graduate studies. A minimum GPA of 2.75/4.0 on the undergraduate degree or the final 60 hours of study are required for admission to the MSLIS. It is possible to take LIS courses on an at-large (non-degree) basis, to work on raising your GPA, test the waters, etc. Doing this does not guarantee admission to a degree program.

Q8. What materials are needed for my MSLIS application?

A8. In addition to completing the online application form, you will need to submit your resume, essay, official transcripts, and \$30 fee. The portal is here:

https://www.csu.edu/graduateschool/application_information.htm International applicants should review additional requirements:

<https://www.csu.edu/graduateschool/requirements.htm>

Q9. How much does it cost?

A9. Current in-state tuition is \$349/credit hour plus \$117/credit hour fees. Out-of-state tuition is \$675/credit hour plus \$117 credit hour fees. Visit the bursar site for official information: <https://www.csu.edu/financialoperations/bursar/tuition/>

Based on the current rates and the minimum 35 credit hours for the MSLIS, the cost of the program is \$16,310 in-state; and \$27,720 out-of-state. For PK12 LIS endorsement (18 credit hours) the total cost is \$8,388 in-state.

Q10. Is funding available?

Q10. Many students are eligible for financial aid and/or payment plans (https://www.csu.edu/financialaid/graduate_financial_aid.htm). Additionally LIS students may pursue campus-based work opportunities (<https://www.csu.edu/humanresources/studentEmployment.htm>) and/or scholarships at CSU or externally (e.g., <https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/scholarships>). Some students are also successful in securing funding through their employers.

Q11. Do I need to complete my coursework in a particular order?

A11. Depending on your program, specialization, how many courses per term you are taking, and which term you begin (fall, spring, or summer), etc. you will work with an academic advisor to determine an appropriate order to complete your program requirements.

Q12. Are practicum (placements) available?

A12. Practicum is available for all specializations. It is recommended for those who do not have previous LIS experience. In-person, hybrid, and online options are available. Practicum is required for the MSLIS school specialization (not PK12 LIS endorsement).

Q13. May I take courses from other CSU departments?

A13. Taking courses from other departments may enhance your academic experience. In order to determine if graduate courses from other programs may be applied as electives toward your program, consult your academic advisor. Also note, not all CSU programs offer online courses; some are on-campus or hybrid.

Q14. Do you accept transfer credit?

A14. Students may petition to transfer recent graduate credit from another institution that has not been used toward a degree/certificate. This process includes submitting syllabi and transcripts to the Graduate School for review. Only grades of B and above are considered. Transfer limit is 1/3 of total degree/certificate requirements.

Q15. Do LIS students have access to campus services?

A15. Yes, LIS students may access a wide range of campus services such as those available through the Gwendolyn Brooks Library (GBL), Campus Life, Athletics, etc.

Q16. How do students maintain good academic standing?

A.16. All CSU students are expected to comply with University policies. Graduate students must maintain a 3.0/4.0 or above cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Q17. What makes LIS studies at CSU special?

A17. CSU offers a flexible and affordable option to pursue LIS studies. CSU is the second oldest public university in Illinois; and it is a Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) situated in a vibrant urban hub. CSU is guided by professional standards and contemporary values - https://www.csu.edu/president/annual_report.htm.

If you have additional questions, please review details on the website (<https://www.csu.edu/cimst/infostudies/index.htm>); attend an upcoming information session; and/or reach out to lis@csu.edu.